# Minutes STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING ISDA Conference Room B 101 W. Ohio St., Suite 1200 Indianapolis, Indiana 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 13, 2006

#### I. Call to Order

## II. Draft Minutes of April 11, 2006

Nola Gentry motioned to approve minutes as drafted. Gary Langell seconded and motion carried.

#### III. Leadership Development:

A. Supervisor Resignations/Appointments-Waneta Lowe Ohio County SWCD recommended Erin Helms to be appointed in place of resigned supervisor Sue Arnold.

Warren Baird motioned to approve the resignation and recommendation. Bill Mann seconded and motion carried.

B. Leadership Development Workgroup Update-Bob Eddleman Supervisors' Leadership Institute: The first pilot for this project will utilize the book Who Moved my Cheese. The pilot will be held in the NE Region, set to begin Aug 24, 2006. Janet Ayres will lead the initial two hour session that will introduce the pilot and build interest in the project. An in depth two day session will follow on Sept 8-9, 2006. If the pilot is determined successful, the Leadership Development Workgroup expects to launch the program in the remaining 7 regions. This project will require funding.

#### C. SWCD Support/Updates-Jerod Chew

- DSC now has a fully staffed District Support Specialist (DSS) staff. Scott Trennepohl of the CNE Region and Laura Fribley of the SE region were recently added to the DSS team. Scott will be located in New Castle in an Agriculture Economic Development Initiative (AEDI) Center. AEDI is very excited about working with Districts in the future.
- DSSs have been setting up trainings for Districts that have requested training on Landfill Inspections.
- DSC has produced DSS impact maps from the ongoing DSS tracking sheet. These results show the amount of time DSSs are spending with Districts in their regions.
- DSSs have been delivering CWI Grant Certificates to all recipients. This has been providing photo opportunities to send to their local papers as well.
- DSSs have also been working with Districts that want to maintain yearly tillage transects.
   DSC maintains statewide transect data every 3 years. Next year will be the DSC transect year.
- A CWI Grants Memo was sent to all recipients in early June. The memo clarified the state payment timeline and the steps to complete the contract process. (Handout)

Payment timeline concerns were discussed. January 1 was preferred as the payment date for future grant cycles to prevent future payment delay due to the end of the state's fiscal year. This timeline will allow for better planning of proposals and coordinates with District fiscal years. DSC will research the process involved to get on this schedule.

Warren Baird moved that the CWI grant funds on future grant cycles be made available annually on January 1 and that DSC will research the process and report to the board in July. Nola Gentry seconded and motion carried.

# IV. Technology:

A. Technology Workgroup Update

DSC Equipment Requests & Update-Jerod Chew & Jane Hardisty

The ICP technical staff is currently reviewing state of the art field equipment. Robotic Total Station surveying instruments are being considered to assist in managing workload by reducing the number of staff required for each task and therefore lessening workload. DSC will purchase one station for each of the CIT teams. Two companies have provided demos. DSC will soon make a decision based on training and pricing. Equipping our field staff with this cutting edge technology is one step closer to making the CITs mobile.

# V. Delivery System:

A. Delivery System Workgroup Update-Jerod Chew

The workgroup's next goal will be to establish each partner's roles and identify gaps.

# VI. Funding:

A. Funding Workgroup Update-Bob Eddleman

The formation of this workgroup is on agenda for the ICP Leadership meeting next week.

#### B. Clean Water Indiana

Round 2 Grants – Nola (Handouts)

The CWI Finance Committee met to discuss future program. Changes were discussed, but it was decided for consistency to keep the grants program primarily the same. The main change is to specifically ask how their grants tie into their local plans and the state ICP plan.

All applications need to be submitted electronically. Applications have been altered to include contract information to expedite the process. Feedback will be more formalized in the future. The Finance Committee requests that the SSCB raise the amount of the District Training Initiative to \$600 and open it up to both staff and supervisors.

Leadership Institute requests the SSCB to consider raising the incentive to \$750 per district.

Warren moved to increase the training incentive to \$750 per District. Tom Jordan seconded. Motion carried.

The Finance Committee recommends that the SSCB continue the 5 CWI Grant Categories from last grant cycle.

Tom Jordan moved to accept the recommendation. Bill Mann seconded and the motion carried.

Nola Gentry moved to approve the CWI Grant applications and set the due date for September 1, 2006. Tom seconded and the motion carried.

2. 2007 Funds – Tammy Lawson

The Administration has requested budgetary needs for ISDA- DSC for the next biennium. DSC has requested a substantial amount that is greatly supported by

legislators. As the Administration moves forward, the ICP should coordinate efforts. ISDA-DSC should be able to share details with the partnership regarding the proposed package in July.

Due to Rule 5 reimbursement and transfer of funds related to the DSC transition, DSC had funds it was unable to spend prior to the end of the fiscal year. The Administration allowed DSC to place these funds into the CWI account so that DSC can utilize them at a later date instead of losing them to the reverting DSC account. In July DSC will prepare the CWI figures to go over the new budget with the SSCB.

#### C. CREP

CREP is proving to be a popular program. The TNC agreements are moving forward. To date, State allocations are approximately \$261,000 and about 1151 acres for the 3 watersheds. The first round of CREP contracts have been sent through the contract signing process. Approximately 95% of the practices are filter strips.

FSA has requested Washington allow for an additional 250 acres for CRP wetland practices which have currently reached the acreage cap.

#### VII. Outreach:

- A. Outreach Workgroup Update (workgroup minutes attached)
- B. Pathway-
  - The State Fair has shown great support to PWQ. They have assigned a groundskeeper to PWQ to ensure it is maintained correctly. They have also hired an intern from Ball State that has participated in a PWQ class project.
  - The PWQ Committee has inquired about providing a mobile Soil Lab during the State Fair.
     Costs to provide the mobile are approximately \$500 a day.

Warren Baird moved to designate \$1500 for the PWQ committee to utilize in obtaining the mobile unit for the State Fair. Nola Gentry seconded and the motion carried.

Gene Weaver stated that IASWCD would be able to offer additional minimal funds for the unit if needed.

# VIII. Accountability:

A. Accountability Workgroup Update

The workgroup is working to incorporate all partnership staffs and software. The goal is to create a seamless system for landowners.

#### IX. SSCB Chairman's Report- Bob Eddleman

No further report

# X. IDEM Report- Martha Clark-Mettler

- Rule 5 program status update. IDEM continues to receive mixed messages on this program.
   IDEM sent out a survey to Districts. 20-30 Districts have responded. IDEM has selected 4 candidates for its new Rule 5 staff. IDEM plans to rebuild the program from the bottom up.
- 319 Grant Solicitation went out yesterday. Guidelines and applications have been simplified and focused. (Handout)

# XI. State Association President's Report – Gene Weaver (Written Report Attached)

# XII. NRCS State Conservationist's Report – Jane Hardisty (Written Report and Handouts Attached)

• Staff update (in addition to written report & handouts)

There have recently been 8-9 NRCS retirements. Tech Team positions to be advertised. Dwayne Howard has been on detail in Washington is has been selected to take a permanent position there. Chris Tippie has been on detail in TX and will return in late July.

# XIII. Farm Services Agency Report –Gail Peas (Written Report Attached)

(in addition to written report & handouts)CRP will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. CRP was first announced from Senator Lugar's farm 20 years ago. FSA will come back to Indiana to celebrate its anniversary this year at the Indiana State Fair. More details to follow at a later date.

#### XIV. Public Comment

 Gene Weaver of IASWCD asked if there were plans to honor CWI Grant Recipients at an Awards Ceremony.

There are plans to honor the next round of CWI recipients at the Annual Conference.

 Gene Weaver of IASWCD asked if there were any updates about a planned ConservationTour.

There is no further update at this time. The ICP Leadership will discuss this at their meeting next week. DSC is working on a strategic planning process for DSSs to work with Districts in interfacing their business plans with the ICP plan.

#### XV. SSCB Discussions

Gary Truitt has shared that he is now with Hoosier Ag Today, a new ag radio organization. This new organization brings together regional radio efforts.

#### XVI. Next Meeting: July 11, 2006 -Location to be discussed

ISDA/NRCS will coordinate a field location for the next SSCB meeting. The meeting will be followed by a field event.

# XVII. Adjourn

Approved By:

Warren Baird moved to adjourn. Gary Langell seconded and motion carried.

Meeting Minutes Prepared by: Cris Goode

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